

**EDEXCEL
ENTRY LEVEL IN HISTORY**

CORE TASK

The Home Front in World War One

Edexcel
Success through qualifications

Introduction

During the First World War people in Britain were attacked by the Germans. This had never really happened in any wars before.

You have three tasks to complete. You should first read the sources. You should also use any textbooks or notes that you have. If you use both the sources and your textbooks you will get more marks.

You should write down what you can find out. Try to keep your work in order. You will get more marks if you do.

Task One

This task is asking you to find out about something.

You must try to find out what life was like for women in Britain before the First World War.

SOURCE A – Wages rates for men and women workers before the First World War

	Men	Women
Cotton workers	£1.47	93p
Shoemakers	£1.43	65p
Bakers	£1.45	63p
Printers	£1.84	61p

SOURCE B – A description of domestic service before the First World War

When I was about fourteen years of age I went to service for about eighteen months. I did not like it at all because you was on from morning to night and you never did know when you was done. You never did get your meals in peace for you are up and down all the time. You only get half a day a week and you never get very large wages in service. You never know when you are going to get a good place.

SOURCE C – This is from a school textbook.

Before the First World War there were very few jobs for women. The most common was domestic service. Hundreds of thousands of women worked as servants. Many women also worked in textile factories. The worst conditions were in the sweated trades, where women worked in their own homes for piece rates.

Task Two

This task is asking you to find out why something happened.

During the First World War many women began to work in industry for the first time. You must try to find out why more than a million women went into factories.

SOURCE A – This is from a school textbook.

When the First World War began in August 1914 most people believed that it would be over in a few months. But by 1915 it was obvious that the war was going to last years.

In May 1915 the army in France began to run short of shells. David Lloyd George opened many new factories to produce munitions. He called for women to volunteer to work in them.

SOURCE B – This account was written by a woman who went to work in a munitions factory.

I was in domestic service and ‘hated every minute of it’ when the war broke out, earning £2 a month working from 6.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. So when the need came for women ‘war-workers’ my chance came to ‘get out’. I started on hand cutting shell fuses. We worked twelve hours a day, apart from the journey morning and night. As for wages, I thought I was very well off earning £5 a week.

SOURCE C – This is a poster produced by the government in 1916.



Task Three

This task is asking you to explain what changes have taken place.

You must try to find out what changes there were to the lives of women in Britain during the First World War.

SOURCE A – This account was written in 1915.

Women have discarded their petticoats. There are girls at the wheels of half the cars that pass. If you go by train, women will handle your luggage. If you choose bus or tram, the conductress in her smart uniform has long been a familiar figure in our streets.

SOURCE B – This table shows how many women were working in some industries at the beginning of the First World War and at the end.

	1914	1918
Transport	18,200	117,200
Manufacturing Industry	2,178,600	2,970,600
Domestic Service	1,658,000	1,258,000
Civil Servants and Teaching	262,000	460,200

SOURCE C – This is a photograph of a factory during the First World War. The notice at the back reads ‘When the boys come back we are going to keep you any longer – girls’.



MARK SCHEME

Task One - Objective One		
Level 1	Information is collected about women before the First World War from either the sources OR a text book and is presented in an unstructured manner, i.e. with no attempt to arrange material under different headings, e.g. pay, conditions, jobs etc.	1-5
Level 2	Information is collected about women before the First World War from BOTH the sources and a text book and is presented in an unstructured manner.	6-10
Level 3	Information is collected about women before the First World War from both the sources and a textbook and is presented in a structured manner showing understanding of chronology.	11-15

Task Two - Objective Three		
Level 1	One cause is given for women's employment during the First World War e.g. they took over the work of men etc.	1-5
Level 2	Several causes are given for women's work during the First World War e.g. they took over the work of men, government posters, higher wages etc.	6-10
Level 3	A sequence of causes is given for women's work during the First World War e.g. at first women did not take over jobs, in 1915 they went into munitions, in 1916 the government tried to persuade them etc.	11-15

Task Three - Objective Four		
Level 1	One change is given, e.g. women gave up domestic service etc.	1-5
Level 2	Several changes are given, e.g. gave up domestic service, higher pay, were sacked at the end of the war etc.	6-10
Level 3	A sequence of changes is given, e.g. women gradually took over more jobs, but were then dismissed when men returned at the end of the war etc.	11-15

Objective Seven		
Level 1	Students are able to show a general sense of chronology, e.g. in terms of before and after.	1-4
Level 2	Students are able to organise events into an accurate sequence.	5-7
Level 3	Students are able to place events accurately in terms of year and date, e.g. showing understanding of the significance of the passage of time etc.	8-10